

May 25, 2001

country and sometimes pay the ultimate price in that service.

Working for America's Best!
MSG MICHAEL P. CLINE (RET),
Executive Director.

March 16, 2001.

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS: On behalf of the members of the National Order of Battle-field Commissions, I wish to extend our support for H.R. 1015, a bill to provide for an increase in the amount of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) paid to survivors of members of the Armed Forces who died in the performance of duty between October 1, 2000, and April 1, 2001.

Your legislation provides an important and timely correction in the implementation of the recent increase in SGLI coverage from \$200,000 to \$250,000. The legislation is also consistent with action taken to increase SGLI after operational accidents such as the Gander, Newfoundland disaster. H.R. 1015 will ensure that those not covered at the higher SGLI level during the period between passage and implementation of the increase authorized under P.L. 106-416 will now be covered.

With the increased level of operations for all members of the Armed Services, tragic accidents are occurring more frequently. From the USS *Cole* to the most recent crash of an Air National Guard plane, our servicemen and women risk their lives on a daily basis. The severity of these incidents serve as a reminder that liberty is not procured without the constant vigilance of our servicemembers.

The members of the National Order of Battle-field Commissions greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue. We offer our full endorsement of H.R. 1015, a bill that will help surviving family members meet critical needs following the tragic losses of their loved ones to recent terrorist attacks or training accidents.

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. EVANS,
Washington Representative.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 21, 2001.

Hon. JO ANN DAVIS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN DAVIS: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States strongly supports your bill, H.R. 1015, to provide an increase in the amount of the Service Members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) paid to survivors of Armed Forces' members who died in the line of duty since November 1, 2000 through April 1, 2001 from its presently authorized amount of \$200,000 to the maximum amount of \$250,000. This two million-member service organization believes this is the equitable thing to do under present circumstances.

It is an unfortunate fact that, even during peacetime, military service members lose their lives while training for wartime scenarios and are targets of international terrorists. Your legislation is consistent with prior legislation taken to increase the SGLI—after the operational accident that resulted in deaths in the Gander, Newfoundland, disaster. H.R. 1015 will retroactively extend the maximum coverage five months, from November 2000 and carry it forward to

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

1 April of this year, when P.L. 106-419 authorizes the new maximum rate of insurance coverage. While it is impossible to place a dollar value on anyone's life, the VFW believes that the added cost of your proposal is absolutely miniscule when considering the Department of Veterans Affairs' current budget.

Again, thank you for taking the initiative to correct a small but very important gap in the life insurance program our nation provides to the military community.

Sincerely,

DENNIS C. CULLINAN,
Director, National Legislative Service.

HONORING RANNEY SCHOOL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Ranney School's dedication of its recently constructed Middle and Upper School Academic Complex, which marks a significant step in the school's ongoing expansion effort. The school's achievements in helping to educate Central New Jersey's young people throughout its forty-one years of existence have truly been exemplary.

The Ranney School, based in Tinton Falls, New Jersey and enrolling 650 students in grades pre-K–12, began as the Rumson Reading Institute. As the school grew, it moved out of the basement of its founders private home and into the 60-acre campus that it currently calls home. In spite of the significant changes during the past four decades, Ranney's mission has continued to emphasize the development of each student's character and sense of scholarship. As a result, many of the school's graduates go on to attend the nation's top colleges and universities.

The completion of the first phase of Ranney's expansion and modernization program will be marked on June 2, as the Academic Complex, comprised of 40,000 square feet of classroom and laboratory space, will be officially dedicated. The new complex is certainly a testament to the Ranney School's continued commitment to maintaining the highest educational standards for its students and faculty.

Once again, I applaud the Ranney School and its contribution to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the institution's steadfast commitment to the education of hundreds of our nation's young people.

SECTION 245(i) EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, H.R. 1885 has been assured of passage as a result of the participation of the White House to pro-

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mote a four month extension while the President considers our request for a one year or a permanent extension. We should all applaud the bi-partisan cooperation which allows us to immediately relieve the anxieties of many immigrants who could not make the April 30th deadline.

Last month I joined several of my New York colleagues by sending a letter to President Bush asking him to support extending 245(i) by at least one year. "We are concerned that once section 245(i) expires, those individuals who have failed to apply by the deadline could face deportation, and in some cases, be barred from reentry to the U.S. for three to ten years. Many of these individuals are parents of natural-born citizens of the U.S." Recently, President Bush has indicated he does support extending 245(i) beyond four months. As a result, I look forward to working with the Administration and my colleagues to ensure legal immigrants are given extended opportunities to petition for permanent resident status.

On December 21, 2000 former President Clinton signed into law the Legal Immigration Family Equity Act (LIFE Act) which reinstated section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. As a result, thousands of hard working immigrants were given the opportunity to apply for legal residence without the threat of being deported. Unfortunately, the deadline for visa petitions expired on April 30th of this year which left many immigrants in my district at a loss. Because of the backlog of immigration cases in large cities such as New York, recent immigrants seeking legal residence face a system that is ill-equipped to handle such a large volume of cases.

Each day, case workers are inundated with hundreds of new cases that demand immediate attention. For this reason, I strongly support H.R. 1885 which extends 245(i) for four months beyond the April 30th deadline. The four month extension will provide relief for thousands of New Yorkers, who due to no fault of their own, did not file a petition before April 30th. Extension of 245(i) would not only benefit legal immigrants who seek permanent resident status, but would ensure the United States economy does not suffer as a result of the mass deportation of thousands of immigrants. With the passage of H.R. 1885 everybody wins.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind:

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Chairman, I believe that there are no expendable human resources in my America. I view every high school dropout, every welfare recipient, every child as a vital resource that must be rescued from the effects of dependency, reduced earnings, and